



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2,000 Volunteers Needed To Plant an Urban Forest

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department and TxDOT in conjunction with Trees for Houston will be conducting the largest volunteer tree planting in the history of the Houston area. Two thousand volunteers will be needed to help plant 20,000 five-gallon trees on January 27, 2007 on Will Clayton Parkway. This massive tree planting event is part of the Houston Area Freeway Forestation Project sponsored by Congressman Ted Poe.

Once the esplanades are planted, visitors leaving IAH on Will Clayton will see a forest from Lee Road to Highway 59. The new trees will help underscore Houston's dedication to increasing its already abundant tree canopy and reinforce its image of being an Emerald City. "When we think of highway construction we need to think of more than just concrete-we need to think of the trees that surround the highways," said Congressman Ted Poe (TX-02).

Teams of volunteers are needed to plant the trees. No experience is necessary but enthusiasm and a willingness to pitch in and help are greatly appreciated. Volunteers will be trained on planting specifics on planting day and are asked to provide their own shovels, rakes, gloves and wear work clothes. Water, refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Organizations, churches, schools, corporations and businesses interested in sponsoring a team can contact Trees For Houston at 713-840-8733 or Gary Woods at 281-474-4507.

For additional information on Volunteering Opportunities with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department call 713-845-1135 or visit our web site at www.houstonparks.org.